

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

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INFORMATION REPORT

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 8 September 1948

SUBJECT Development of Flashlights for Aerial Photography
at the Oberspreewerk

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EVALUATE

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1. A flashlight with a large reflector which will permit night photography from heights of 1-2 km has been made at the Oberspreewerk. Technical details are as follows:
 - a) It consists of a quartz tube about 2 meters long filled with rare gases, mainly xenon.
 - b) A battery of condensers of 700 microfarads to 5,000 volts is discharged through the gas.
 - c) The discharge lasts 1/500 sec, during which 9,000 joules of energy are dissipated. Ninety per cent of the visible light is discharged in 1/1000 sec. Peak power is at the rate of 10,000 kw.
 - d) Suitable condensers were not obtainable in Germany, and these had to be flown from Russia.
 - e) The Russian in charge of development was one Marshak. He is not an expert in gas discharges or quartz technology.
 - f) When this apparatus had been completed, Marshak ordered that the development of a 30,000 joule flashlight be begun with a target date for completion of December 1948.
2. The OSW has manufactured 3 microwave spectrographs for wave lengths between 3 and 40 cm.

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